

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claim 9, amend claim 8 and add newly written claims 18-21 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn) An apparatus for curing composite material including a temperature controlled vessel in which the material is placed during curing and an infra-red temperature measuring device located remotely from the component to measure the temperature of at least part of the material during curing.

2. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the measuring device sends temperature information to a system for controlling the temperature of the vessel which processes the information and changes the temperature of the vessel as necessary.

3. (withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the measuring device is located within the vessel.

4. (withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the measuring device is located outside the vessel.

5. (withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the temperature controlled vessel is an autoclave.

6. (withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the infra-red temperature measuring device is a camera.

7. (withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the temperature across the whole of the material is monitored.

8. (currently amended) A method for curing composite material including the steps of;
placing the material in a temperature controlled vessel and then,
curing the material and during the curing monitoring the taking temperature readings and
monitoring the temperature of at least part of the material using an infra-red device remote from
the material, and
processing the temperature readings and then adjusting the temperature of the vessel to
maintain a constant curing temperature.

9. (cancelled).

10. (cancelled).

11. (cancelled).

12. (withdrawn) An apparatus for curing composite material including:

a temperature controlled vessel in which the material is placed during curing; and an infra-red temperature measuring device located remotely from the component to measure the temperature of at least part of the material during curing, wherein the measuring device sends temperature information to a system for controlling the temperature of the vessel which processes the information and changes the temperature of the vessel as necessary.

13. (previously presented) A method for curing composite material, said method including the steps of:

placing the material in a temperature controlled vessel;

curing the material;

during said curing step, monitoring the temperature of at least part of the material using an infra-red device remote from the material; and

adjusting the temperature of the vessel to maintain a constant curing temperature.

14. (previously presented) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 13 including the step of locating said infra-red device outside the vessel.

15. (previously presented) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 13 wherein the temperature controlled vessel is an autoclave.

16. (previously presented) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 13 wherein the infra-red temperature measuring device is a camera.

17. (previously presented) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 13 wherein said monitoring step includes monitoring the temperature across the whole of the material.

18. (new) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 16, wherein said camera for monitoring the temperature across the whole of the material is moveably mounted for allowing larger structures to be monitored by one camera.

19. (new) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 16, wherein said method includes the steps of:

selecting specific points on the component for taking readings; and
directing said camera to the selected specific points.

20. (new) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 13, wherein said method includes the step of monitoring the temperature of the vessel prior to and during curing of the material.

21. (new) A method for curing composite material as claimed in claim 13, wherein said method includes the step of monitoring the temperature of the material to determine the location and existence of voids during curing.